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## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

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## STATEMENT OF DISRUPTIVE AND OBSTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia reaffirms the policies to support fully, freedom of expression by each member of the academic community and to preserve and protect the rights of freedom of its faculty members and students to engage in debate, discussion and peaceful and non-disruptive protest and dissent. The following statement relates specifically to the problem described below. It does not change or in any way infringe upon the Board’s existing policies and practices in support of freedom of expression and action. Rather, it is considered necessary to combat the ultimate effect or irresponsible disruptive and obstructive actions by students and faculty which destroy academic freedom and the institutional structures through which the University operates.

In recent years, a new, serious problem has appeared on many college and university campuses in the nation. Some students, faculty members and others have, on occasion, engaged in demonstrations, sit-ins, and other activities that have clearly and deliberately interfered with the regular and orderly operation of the institution concerned. Typically, these actions have been the physical occupation of a building or campus area for a protracted period of time for the use of, or display of, verbal or written obscenities involving indecent or disorderly conduct.

These actions have gone beyond all heretofore recognized bounds of meetings for discussion, persuasion, or even protest, in that: (1) acquiescence to demands of the demonstrators is the condition for dispersal and (2) the reasonable and written directions of institutional officials to disperse have been ignored. Such activities thus have become clearly recognizable as an action of force, operating outside all established channels on the campus, including that of intellectual debate and persuasion which are at the very heart of education.

The Board of Regents is deeply concerned by this problem. Under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, under all applicable court rulings and in keeping with the tradition of higher education in the United States, the Board is ultimately responsible for the orderly operation of the several institutions of the University System and the preservation of academic freedom in these institutions. The Board cannot and will not divest itself of this responsibility.

For these reasons and in order to respond directly and specifically to this new problem the Board of Regents stipulates that any student, faculty member, administrator or employee, acting individually or in concert with others, who clearly obstructs or disrupts, or attempts to obstruct or disrupt any teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, or public service activity, or any other activity authorized to be discharged or held on any campus of the University System of Georgia is considered by the Board to have committed an act of gross irresponsibility and shall be subject to disciplinary procedures, possibly resulting in dismissal or termination of employment.

## CAREER SERVICES

The overall mission of the Office of Career Services is to create and maintain an educational environment which complements, enhances and supports the broader academic mission of Albany State University. It is of utmost importance to recognize and address the uniqueness and diversity of our students and alumni and to address proactively their career development and job search needs. This will be accomplished by providing professional advisement and the most up-to-date guidance resources available. The staff seeks to assist students and alumni with choosing career interest, gaining related work experience, and providing guidance in their full-time professional job search through three distinct areas:

* Self-Assessment: Career advisement and testing.
* Experiential Learning Opportunities: Shadowing and mentoring experiences, internships and cooperative education.
* Professional Employment Services: On-campus recruitment, job fairs, jobs listings, internet resources, resume referrals and job search readiness workshops. Services also include graduate and professional school visitations, a career resource library and computer-based programs.

## THE RIGHT TO SHARE IN POLICY MAKING

The Albany State University students have a collective right to an appropriate voice in the making of institutional policy generally affecting their social or academic affairs; however, this right is subject to the supervening responsibility of the institution to assure adequate protection for essential interests and policies of the institution. This collective right is recognized by the inclusion of student representation with full voting privileges on all standing institutional committees. To the extent that students are foreclosed from sharing in the making of particular decisions, or kinds of decisions, the institutional policy or interest deemed to require the foreclosure will be explicitly stated. Students will always share in the formulation of standards of student conduct. The status of the University as a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requires that caution be exercised in retaining any student who falls below the accepted academic standards. Students are reviewed each year to determine their academic status. Students are notified of extended probation and suspensions.

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## COMMENCEMENT

Commencement is a part of the academic process. Graduating in absentia, when students cannot attend, requires approval of an acceptable excuse from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Requests to graduate in absentia should be sent to the Office for Academic Affairs.

## MATRICULATION TIME FOR DEGREE

The normal time required to complete degree requirements is four academic years when the student carries a full load, 15 to 16 semesters, and no remedial courses. The maximum time allotted for completing degree requirements is six academic years or 12 semesters. Beyond this period, approval must be obtained on a term-by-term basis from the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Students changing programs will be required to meet the requirements of the department to which the change is being made and must follow the course of study indicated by that department.

## CREDIT LOAD

The normal credit load is from 15 to 16 semester hours. Students desiring to carry more than a normal load must have the approval of their advisor, department chairperson and dean of the respective school. Permission to carry 17 or 18 hours will require a 3.0 or above cumulative grade point average. Permission to carry more than 18 hours will require a 3.0 or above cumulative average and a 3.0 semester GPA during the last semester of residence. A graduating senior can carry an overload with a 2.5 cumulative GPA one semester (only) during the senior year. In special cases, students may be permitted to carry more than 20 hours per term provided permission is granted by the Vice President for Academic Affairs. No student will be allowed to carry more than 23 hours during any one semester.

